

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for electronically cataloging an object appearing in a photographic image, comprising:

5 receiving a unique identification code from a remote generator that generates the unique identification code, the unique identification code being unique to the object in the image;

10 storing image data for the image in association with the unique identification code;

accessing the stored image data via the unique identification code; and

outputting the image data.

15 2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the generator is a transponder.

20 3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the transponder is located on the object in the image.

25 4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein reception of the transmitted unique identification code is via a receiver, wherein the receiver is a component of a camera that captures the image.

30 5. A method according to Claim 4, wherein the receiver receives the unique identification code via a wireless interface.

6. A method according to Claim 1, wherein encoding of the unique identification code is accomplished using the DIG35 standard.

5 7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the image data is stored in a database system on a computer-readable storage medium.

10 8. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of verifying that the unique identification code corresponds to the possessor of the transponder.

15 9. A method according to Claim 1, wherein accessing and outputting the image data is performed from a location remote from the computer-readable storage medium.

20 10. A method according to Claim 10, wherein said accessing is a selective authorized access, wherein the unique identification code associated with the image allows only authorized access to the image.

25 11. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said outputting step comprises outputting by display.

30 12. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said outputting step comprises outputting by print.

13. A method according to Claim 12,  
wherein the image is printed at a remote location  
from the computer-readable storage medium.

14. A method according to Claim 13,  
wherein the image is printed in a variety of sizes  
and formats.

15. A method according to Claim 1,  
wherein said outputting step comprises outputting by  
storage onto a removable computer readable memory  
medium.

16. A method according to Claim 1,  
wherein the image contains multiple objects.

17. A method according to Claim 16,  
wherein each object has a unique identification  
code.

18. A system for electronically  
cataloging an object appearing in a photographic  
image, comprising:

a generator that generates and transmits a  
unique identification code, the unique  
identification code being unique to the object in  
the image;

a storage device that stores image data  
for the image in association with the unique  
identification code;

access means for accessing the stored  
image data via the unique identification code; and  
output means for outputting the image  
data.

5                   19. A system according to Claim 18,  
wherein the generator is a transponder.

10                   20. A system according to Claim 19,  
wherein the transponder is located on the object in  
the image.

15                   21. A system according to Claim 18,  
wherein the receiver is a component of a camera that  
captures the image.

20                   22. A system according to Claim 21,  
wherein the receiver receives the unique  
identification code via a wireless interface.

25                   23. A system according to Claim 18,  
wherein encoding of the unique identification code  
is accomplished using the DIG35 standard.

                    24. A system according to Claim 18,  
wherein the image data is stored in a database  
system on a computer-readable storage medium.

                    25. A system according to Claim 18,  
further comprising verification means for verifying

that the unique identification code corresponds to the possessor of the transponder.

5           26. A system according to Claim 18, wherein accessing and outputting the image data is performed from a location remote from the computer-readable storage medium.

10           27. A system according to Claim 26, wherein said accessing is a selective authorized access, wherein the unique identification code associated with the image allows only authorized access to the image.

15           28. A system according to Claim 18, wherein said outputting means outputs by display.

20           29. A system according to Claim 18, wherein said outputting means outputs by print.

25           30. A system according to Claim 29, wherein the image is printed at a remote location from the computer-readable storage medium.

30           31. A system according to Claim 29, wherein the image is printed in a variety of sizes and formats.

35           32. A system according to Claim 18, wherein said outputting means outputs by storage onto a removable computer readable memory medium.

33. A system according to Claim 18,  
wherein the image contains multiple objects.

34. A system according to Claim 33,  
wherein each object has a unique identification  
code.

35. An apparatus for electronically  
cataloging an object appearing in a photographic  
image, comprising:

a receiver for receiving a unique  
identification code from a remote generator that  
generates the unique identification code, the unique  
identification code being unique to the object in  
the image;

a memory for storing executable process  
steps;

a processor to execute said process steps  
stored in said memory;

wherein said process steps include (a)  
capturing image data for the image associated with  
the unique identification code, (b) storing the  
unique identification code in association with the  
captured image data, and (c) transferring the stored  
recorded image data with the stored unique  
identification code to a computer-readable storage  
medium.

36. An apparatus according to Claim 35,  
wherein the receiver receives the unique  
identification code via a wireless interface.

37. An apparatus according to Claim 35,  
wherein storing of the unique identification code is  
accomplished using the DIG35 standard.

5 38. An apparatus according to Claim 35,  
wherein transfer of the image to a computer-readable  
storage medium is performed via a wired or wireless  
interface.

10 39. An apparatus according to Claim 35,  
wherein the image contains multiple objects.

15 40. An apparatus according to Claim 39,  
wherein each object has a unique identification  
code.

41. A method for automatically storing  
information identifying an object in an image,  
comprising the steps of:

20 receiving a unique identification code  
from a remote generator that generates the unique  
identification code, the unique identification code  
being unique to the object in the image;

25 capturing image data for the image;  
generating meta-data for the image data,  
the meta-data including the unique identification  
code; and

storing the meta-data together with the  
captured image data into a storage medium.

42. A method according to Claim 41,  
wherein the meta-data is stored in a standard format  
of data for digital photographic image.

5 43. A method according to Claim 42,  
wherein the meta-data is stored in a DIG35 standard  
format of data.

10 44. A method according to Claim 41,  
wherein said generating step includes the step of  
retrieving information corresponding to the unique  
identification code.

15 45. A method according to Claim 44,  
further comprising the step of verifying the  
retrieved information.

20 46. A method according to Claim 41,  
further comprising the step of accessing and  
displaying the image stored in the storage medium  
via a user interface.

47. A method according to Claim 41,  
wherein the image contains multiple objects.

25 48. A method according to Claim 47,  
wherein each object has a unique identification  
code.



49. A system for automatic generation of information which identifies an object in an image, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a unique identification code from a remote generator that generates the unique identification code, the unique identification code being unique to the object in the image;

capturing means for capturing image data for the image;

generating means for generating meta-data for the image data, the meta-data including the unique identification code; and

storing means for storing the meta-data together with the captured image data into a storage medium.

50. A system according to Claim 49, wherein the meta-data is stored in a standard format of data for digital photographic image.

51. A system according to Claim 49, wherein the meta-data is stored in a DIG35 standard format of data.

52. A method according to Claim 51, wherein said generating step includes the step of retrieving information corresponding to the unique identification code.

